

To Whom It May Concern...and I hope it concerns some.....

A survey recently popped up on the City's 'Ottawa Engage' website...mid-summer/ mid-pandemic... and no notice provided to those who have previously expressed an interest in Beryl Gaffney Park...

But don't bother to fill it out. Many feel 'it's a done deal', judging by the questions. Do you want square tables or round?

The bigger and more important question is WHY is City Council spending money – scarce money – on yet another Off-Leash Dog Park, inside, an already designated Off-Leash Dog Park?

Don't get me wrong...I love my dog, but my love does not translate to 135+ acres of parkland on the shores of the UNESCO World Heritage Rideau Canal ...dedicated to her freedom.

Where is the justification, the needs analysis, the approved Master Plan, the vision for the future? Who decided that Beryl Gaffney Park, a 95+ acre site on the shores of the Rideau River, assembled by the former City of Nepean as a southern gateway, 'city-wide' park for its residents...was/is an 'Off Leash Dog Park?'

The 1999 Nepean vision was the preservation of a natural park that included a picnic area, adventure playground, boardwalk along the River's edge, trails, and much, much, more.

But alas, the money that has been accumulated to date – a mere \$800K- \$1M – for Beryl Gaffney Park development...will principally go for a Fenced Dog Park and a 60m x 25m Picnic Area ... ~\$400K has already been spent to buy the land for this new 1 ha (2.47 acres) doggie den.

Have we no vision? Have we no heart? Have we no respect for the namesake? Do we not see the potential, the opportunity? Why shouldn't Ottawa residents enjoy the quiet pleasure of a kayak in the bay of the back channel? Why can't children climb a rope maze and feel that sense of achievement? Why can't families break bread in a natural sanctuary?

Becausethis park....Beryl Gaffney Park.....has gone to the dogs.....

If you care, forget the survey (it's too late)...e-mail any/all of the following today

Reid.Shepherd@ottawa.ca Planner, Project Lead

Kevin.Wherry@ottawa.ca Manager, Park Planning

CarolAnne.Meehan@ottawa.ca Councillor, Ward 22

Jan.Harder@ottawa.ca Councillor, Ward 3

Scott.Moffatt@ottawa.ca Councillor, Ward 21

Jim.Watson@ottawa.ca Mayor, City of Ottawa

For background info go to www.mcpra.org/beryl-gaffney-park

Anne Robinson

